Ontario

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Public Health Division

Ontario Influenza Bulletin
2005-2006 Season

SURVEILLANCE WEEK 31- 32 (July 30 - August 12), 2006

This issue of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin provides information on the surveillance period from July 30 – August 12, 2006 (weeks 31 and 32). The analysis for this issue occurred on Thursday August 17, 2006, therefore all data is current to that date.

During weeks 31and 32 of 2006, influenza activity in Ontario was lower compared to that of the previous two weeks. No sporadically occurring case of influenza was reported through iPHIS and no institutional outbreak of influenza was reported from health units. All the health regions reported 'no activity' levels.

Please note: When entering sporadic influenza cases into iPHIS, under the "Aetiological agent" field, four options are available in iPHIS: "Influenza A", "Influenza B", "Influenza C" and "Influenza Virus" (no type). Please do not choose "Influenza Virus" from the pick list unless the type (i.e. A vs. B) is selected. For surveillance purposes, entering the type of influenza is essential. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

For a definition of influenza-like illness (ILI) activity levels and links to websites providing current influenza information from other sources, please refer to the attached Appendix. If you would like to provide feedback on the Bulletin, please contact Shafiq Chowdhury (shafiq.chowdhury@moh.gov.on.ca, 416-327-7807) or Anne-Luise Winter (anne-luise.winter@moh.gov.on.ca, 416-327-7301).

Table 1: Summary of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases and institutional influenza outbreaks by health region, July 30 – August 12 (weeks 31& 32), 2006.

Lab-confirmed Influenza cases*	HEALTH REGION							TOTAL
	North West	North East	Eastern	Central East	Toronto	South West	Central West	
Influenza A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza A & B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unspecified †	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total new cases	***0***	***0***	***0***	***0***	***0***	***0***	***0***	***0***
Institutional influenza outbreaks‡	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

SOURCE: MOHLTC [iPHIS, Health Unit Reports to PHD, Provincial Appendix D and Appendix E Database]

* Includes reports of sporadically occurring influenza through iPHIS, as well as cases in institutional outbreaks, with dates of onset in the surveillance period.
† Type of influenza, i.e. A vs B, was not specified in iPHIS (i.e. Influenza subtype dropdown menu left blank or reported as "Unspecified").
‡ Laboratory-confirmed outbreaks in institutions during the surveillance period.
** Confirmed through verbal communication with health unit

Table 2: Confirmed* cases of influenza by health unit & health region, with an episode date† between July 30- August 12 (weeks 31 & 32), 2006.

Region	Health Unit	Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza			
		Influenza A	Influenza B	Unspecified‡	TOTAL
North West	Northwestern	0	0	0	0
	Thunder Bay District	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL NORTH WEST	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
North East	Algoma	0	0	0	0
	North Bay Parry Sound District	0	0	0	0
	Porcupine	0	0	0	0
	Sudbury & District	0	0	0	0
	Timiskaming	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL NORTH EAST	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Eastern	Eastern Ontario	0	0	0	0
	Hastings & Prince Edward Counties	0	0	0	0
	Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington	0	0	0	0
	Leeds, Grenville & Lanark	0	0	0	0
	Ottawa	0	0	0	0
	Renfrew	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL EASTERN	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Central East	Durham Region	0	0	0	0
	Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District	0	0	0	0
	Peterborough County-City	0	0	0	0
	Simcoe Muskoka District	0	0	0	0
	York Region	0	0	0	0
	Peel Region	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL CENTRAL EAST	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Toronto	Toronto	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL TORONTO	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
South West	Grey-Bruce	0	0	0	0
	Elgin-St. Thomas	0	0	0	0
	Huron County	0	0	0	0
	Chatham-Kent	0	0	0	0
	Lambton	0	0	0	0
	Middlesex-London	0	0	0	0
	Oxford	0	0	0	0
	Perth District	0	0	0	0
	Windsor-Essex County	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL SOUTHWEST	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Central West	Brant	0	0	0	0
	Haldimand-Norfolk	0	0	0	0
	Hamilton	0	0	0	0
	Niagara Region	0	0	0	0
	Halton Region	0	0	0	0
	Waterloo Region	0	0	0	0
	Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL CENTRAL WEST	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
	TOTAL ONTARIO	***0***	***0***	***0***	***0***

SOURCE: MOHLTC [iPHIS, Health Unit Reports to PHD]

* Confirmed cases of influenza can include laboratory-confirmed cases and epi-linked cases

† Episode Date for a case corresponds to the earliest date on record for the case according to the iPHIS hierarchy (Symptom Date > Clinical Diagnosis Date > Specimen Collection Date > Lab Test Date > Reported Date)

‡ Type of influenza, i.e. A vs B, was not specified in iPHIS [i.e. Influenza subtype dropdown menu left blank or reported as influenza (no type)]

Table 3: Cumulative* confirmed† cases of influenza by health unit & health region, September 1, 2005 to August 12, 2006.

Region	Health Unit	Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza			
		Influenza A	Influenza B	Unspecified‡	TOTAL
North West	Northwestern	7	11	0	18
	Thunder Bay District	2	2	0	4
	TOTAL NORTH WEST	***9***	***13***	***0***	***22***
North East	Algoma	12	7	7	26
	North Bay Parry Sound District	3	7	11	21
	Porcupine	10	28	3	41
	Sudbury & District	7	15	1	23
	Timiskaming	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL NORTH EAST	***32***	***57***	***22***	***111***
Eastern	Eastern Ontario	34	4	2	40
	Hastings & Prince Edward Counties	24	19	1	44
	Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington	28	25	0	53
	Leeds, Grenville & Lanark	3	0	24	27
	Ottawa	93	18	0	111
	Renfrew	5	6	0	11
	TOTAL EASTERN	***187***	***72***	***27***	***286***
Central East	Durham Region	11	1	2	14
	Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District	37	68	1	106
	Peterborough County-City	2	6	5	13
	Simcoe Muskoka District	70	57	18	145
	York Region	39	58	18	115
	Peel Region	92	85	12	189
	TOTAL CENTRAL EAST	***251***	***275***	***56***	***582***
Toronto	Toronto	316	201	1	518
	TOTAL TORONTO	***316***	***201***	***1***	***518***
South West	Grey-Bruce	35	31	2	68
	Elgin-St. Thomas	2	0	0	2
	Huron County	10	32	1	43
	Chatham-Kent	5	0	3	8
	Lambton	7	19	0	26
	Middlesex-London	29	18	4	51
	Oxford	6	16	4	26
	Perth District	4	25	1	30
	Windsor-Essex County	18	11	0	29
	TOTAL SOUTHWEST	***116***	***152***	***15***	***283***
Central West	Brant	4	5	2	11
	Haldimand-Norfolk	14	11	0	25
	Hamilton	111	92	0	203
	Niagara Region	10	33	4	47
	Halton Region	56	21	17	94
	Waterloo Region	41	53	1	95
	Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph	10	43	9	62
	TOTAL CENTRAL WEST	***246***	***258***	***33***	***537***
	TOTAL ONTARIO	***1157***	***1028***	***154***	***2339***

SOURCE: MOHLTC [iPHIS, Health Unit Reports to PHD]
* Cumulative case counts include late reports and records that are otherwise reconciled. Therefore, cumulative counts may not equal new cases plus previous cumulative value.
† Confirmed cases of influenza can include laboratory-confirmed cases and epi-linked cases.
‡ Type of influenza, i.e. A vs B, was not specified in iPHIS (i.e. Influenza subtype dropdown menu left blank or reported as unspecified)

Ontario Influenza Bulletin, 2005-2006
Surveillance weeks 31 & 32, between July 30 – August 12, 2006

Influenza Subtype(s):

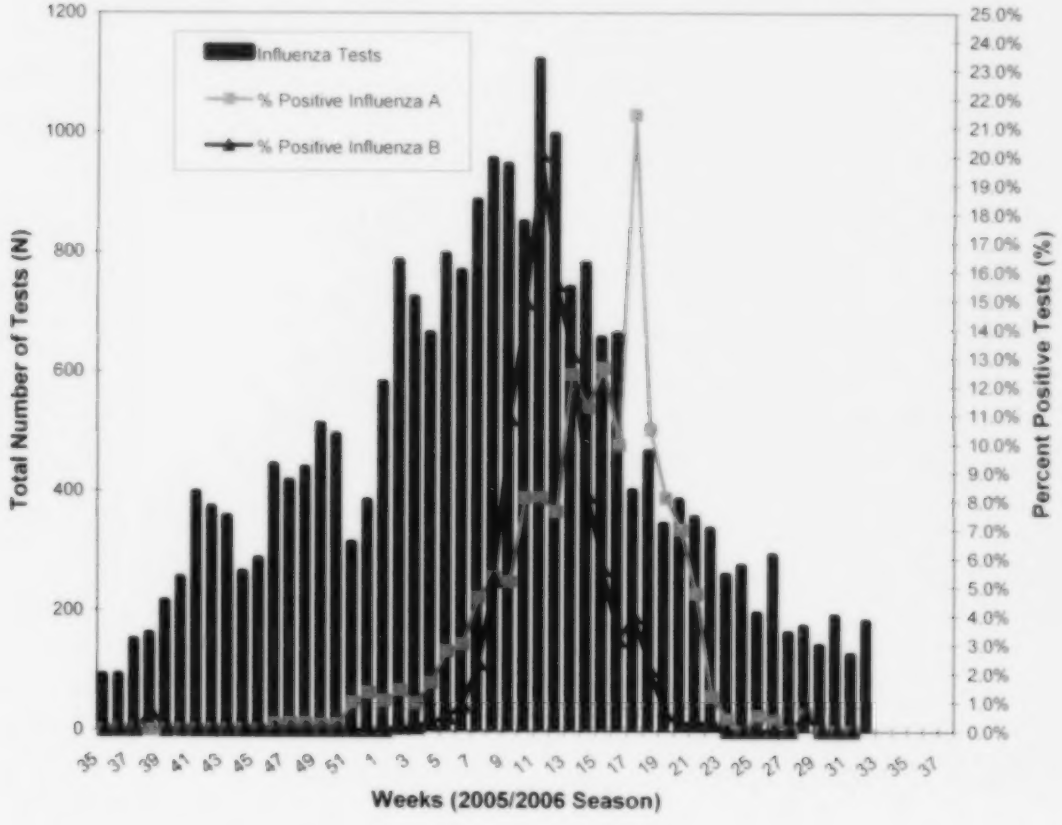
During weeks 31 and 32, 1104 isolates were received by the Public Health Agency of Canada. None of the isolates tested positive for influenza A or influenza B.*

Since the start of the 2005-2006 influenza season, the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) has antigenically characterized 1018 influenza viruses. Among these 54% was influenza type A and the remaining 46% was influenza type B.** During the weeks 27 and 28, A/Wisconsin/67/2005-like viruses were antigenically characterized for the first time this season in Canada. It is the recommended A/H3N2 component for the 2006-2007 vaccine. All of the influenza B viruses characterized have been B/Malaysia/2506/2004-like (B/Victoria/02/1987 lineage), which is the recommended influenza B component for next season's vaccine. However, a B/Shanghai/361/2002-like virus, which is the B component for this season's vaccine, was detected in early June in Prince Edward Island.

Note: The 2005-2006 season Canadian vaccine contains an A/ New Caledonia/20/1999(H1N1)-like, an A/ California/ 7/2004(H3N2)-like, and a B/Shanghai/361/2002-like virus strain.

* These data have been obtained from the Respiratory Virus Detection tables of Public Health Agency of Canada for weeks 31 & 32, 2006.
** These data have been obtained from the FluWatch report of the Public Health Agency of Canada for weeks 29 & 30, 2006

Figure 1: Total number of influenza tests performed and percent of positive tests in Ontario reported to the Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control (CIDPC), by report week*.



Source: Public Health Agency of Canada
* Total numbers reported include late reports; therefore totals may not be equal to the sum of the weekly numbers.

Note: Cumulative numbers for season to date are available through FluWatch: http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/

Table 4: Institutional respiratory outbreaks in Ontario, September 1, 2005 to August 12, 2006

Institutional Respiratory Infection Outbreaks		
New Outbreaks*	**N**	**% (of outbreaks)**
Influenza A	0	10.0
Influenza B	0	0.0
Influenza A and B	0	0.0
Parainfluenza (All types)	2	33.3
Other organisms	0	0.0
No organism identified	4	66.7
TOTAL	***6***	***100***
Total Respiratory Infection Outbreaks, Season to Date**	**N**	**% (of outbreaks)**
Influenza A	126	16.4
Influenza B	21	2.7
Influenza A and B	5	0.7
Parainfluenza (All types)	45	5.9
Other organisms	101	13.2
No organism identified	468	61.1
TOTAL	***766***	***100***
Types of Institutions (All Outbreaks) **	**N**	**% (of outbreaks)**
Long-Term Care Homes	641	83.7
Hospitals	46	6.0
Retirement Homes	73	9.5
Other	6	0.8
TOTAL	***766***	***100***
Outbreak Related Complications (All Outbreaks) **	**N**	**% (of cases)**
Deaths		
Residents	290	3.0
Staff	1	0.0
Pneumonia (Chest x-ray confirmed)		
Residents	501	5.2
Staff	23	0.8
Hospitalizations		
Residents	539	5.5
Staff	12	0.4

SOURCE: MOHLTC [Provincial Appendix D and Appendix E Database]

* New outbreaks are those in which the date of onset of the first case occurred in the current surveillance period (July 30 – August 12, 2006)

** Season to date includes all outbreaks in which the date of onset of the first case occurred between September 1, 2005 and August 12, 2006.

Figure 2: Influenza Activity* levels in Ontario by health unit & health region for weeks 31 & 32, between July 30 – August 12, 2006.

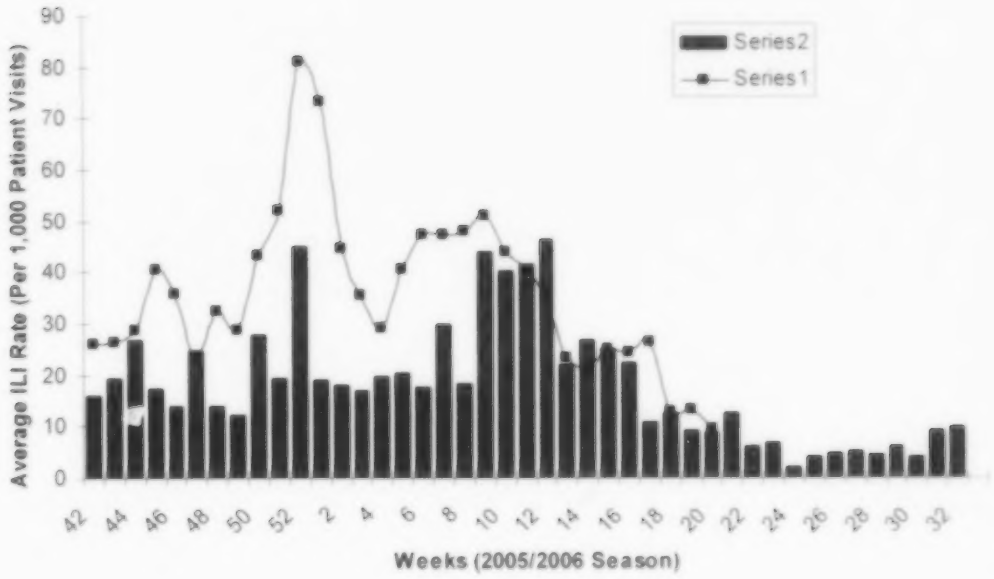
SOURCE: MOHLTC [Provincial Influenza Activity Report (Appendix C) Database]

* Influenza activity levels are assigned by local public health units and reported to the MOHLTC by the Tuesday following the end of the surveillance week at 4 pm. Activity levels are assigned based on laboratory confirmations, ILI reports from various sources, and laboratory-confirmed institutional outbreaks. Please refer to detailed definitions for the 2005-2006 season included in the Appendix]

Figure 2: **Influenza Activity* levels in Ontario by health unit & health region for weeks 31 & 32, between July 30 – August 12, 2006.**

SOURCE: MOHLTC [Provincial Influenza Activity Report (Appendix C) Database]
* Influenza activity levels are assigned by local public health units and reported to the MOHLTC by the Tuesday following the end of the surveillance week at 4 pm. Activity levels are assigned based on laboratory confirmations, ILI reports from various sources, and laboratory-confirmed institutional outbreaks. Please refer to detailed definitions for the 2005-2006 season included in the Appendix]

Figure 3: Average influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rate (per 1,000 patient visits) reported by sentinel physicians* in Ontario in 2005- 2006 season, by report week, Compared to Ontario average† (1996/96 to 2004/05 seasons).



Source: Public Health Agency of Canada

* Sentinel physician information is reported to Public Health Agency of Canada

†No data available for mean rate in previous years for weeks 21 to 39 (1996-1997 through 2002-2003 seasons). During weeks 20-39, 2002-2003/2004-2005 seasons, ILI is reported once every two weeks, on even weeks only.

Table 6: Average Influenza-like illness consultation rate (per 1,000 patient visits) reported by Sentinel Physicians* in Ontario, by age group and postal code for week 31 (July 30- Aug. 5), 2006.

Postal Code	0 – 4	5 – 19	20 – 64	65 +	Unknown
K0C1A0	0	0	0	0	0
K2P1V3	0	0	0	0	0
K0H2N0	0	0	1	0	0
K7H2W6	0	0	0	0	0
L1A3W4	0	0	0	0	0
K0M1A0	0	0	0	0	0
L1B1H8	0	0	0	0	0
L4L4Y7	0	0	0	0	0
L4J7Y3	0	0	0	0	0
M5M1B2	0	0	0	0	0
M4X1W4	0	0	0	0	0
M4E1V8	0	0	0	0	0
M8Y1W3	0	0	0	0	0
M3H1T1	0	0	0	0	0
M9W6N5	1	0	0	0	0
M9W4L6	0	0	0	0	0
M8V2Z5	0	0	0	0	0
L4Y2N8	0	0	0	0	0
L6W2A4	0	4	1	0	0
L6V4H6	0	0	0	0	0
L9H1V1	0	0	0	1	0
L9H2G2	0	0	0	0	0
L2E1Y3	0	0	0	0	0
N3C2E2	0	0	0	0	0
N2M3B5	0	0	0	0	0
N5C1G5	0	0	0	0	0
N0R1G0	0	0	0	0	0
N0M1T0	0	0	0	0	0
N6C2R5	0	0	0	0	0
N0G1L0	0	0	0	0	0
N0C1E0	0	0	0	0	0
P0W1E0	0	0	0	0	0
P8N2Z6	0	0	0	0	0
ILI Sum	1	4	2	1	0
ILI Consultation Rate (per 1,000 patient visits)	17.7	48.2	4.1	3.8	0.0

Source: Public Health Agency of Canada
* Sentinel physician information is reported to the Public Health Agency of Canada
Note: The small numbers of sentinel physicians reporting at the local level make the ILI rates unstable. Please interpret these data correspondingly.

Table 7: Average Influenza-like illness consultation rate (per 1,000 patient visits) reported by Sentinel Physicians* in Ontario, by age group and postal code for week 32 (August 6- 12), 2006.

Postal Code	0 – 4	5 – 19	20 – 64	65 +	Unknown
K2P1V3	0	0	2	0	0
K0H2N0	1	0	0	0	0
K7H2W6	0	0	0	0	0
L1A3W4	0	0	0	0	0
K0L1H0	0	0	0	0	0
K0M1A0	0	0	0	0	0
L1B1H8	0	0	0	0	0
L4J7Y3	0	0	0	0	0
M5M1B2	0	0	0	0	0
M4X1W4	0	0	0	0	0
M4E1V8	0	0	0	0	0
M8Y1W3	0	0	0	0	0
M9W6N5	0	0	0	0	0
M9W4L6	0	0	1	0	0
M8V2Z5	0	0	0	0	0
L6W2A4	0	1	0	0	0
L7R1M6	0	0	0	0	0
L9H1V1	0	0	1	0	0
L9H2G2	0	0	0	0	0
N2M3B5	0	0	0	0	0
N0R1G0	0	0	0	0	0
N0M1T0	0	0	0	0	0
N0C1E0	0	0	0	0	0
P7E1H5	0	0	0	0	0
P0W1E0	0	0	0	0	0
P9N3W7	0	0	0	0	0
P9N3W7	0	0	0	0	0
P8N2Z6	0	0	0	0	0
ILI Sum	1	1	4	0	0
ILI Consultation Rate (per 1,000 patient visits)	27.8	24.4	10.7	0.0	0.0

Source: Public Health Agency of Canada
* Sentinel physician information is reported to the Public Health Agency of Canada
Note: The small numbers of sentinel physicians reporting at the local level make the ILI rates unstable. Please interpret these data correspondingly.

FURTHER INFORMATION

1. Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
   Previous issues of the *Ontario Influenza Bulletin* can be accessed at:
   www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/pubhealth/flu/flu_04/flubul_mn.html

2. Public Health Agency of Canada
   Issues of FluWatch can be accessed at:
   www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/

3. United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
   www.cdc.gov/flu/

INFORMATION ABOUT AVIAN INFLUENZA

For latest information on the status of avian influenza worldwide please use the following link:

Public Health Agency of Canada
http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/h5n1/index.html

APPENDIX

Definitions for influenza activity levels:

No Data: No activity report corresponding to the surveillance week was received at the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Call Centre by the Tuesday (at 4 p.m.) following the end of the surveillance period.
No Activity = No ILI and no laboratory-confirmed cases* or outbreaks occurred.
Sporadic: sporadically occurring ILI **AND** laboratory-confirmed influenza* with NO outbreaks detected within the influenza surveillance region†
Localized: sporadically occurring ILI **AND** laboratory-confirmed influenza* together with outbreaks of ILI in schools and worksites or laboratory confirmed influenza in residential institutions occurring in less than 50% of the influenza surveillance region(s)
Widespread: sporadically occurring ILI **AND** laboratory-confirmed influenza* together with outbreaks of ILI in schools and worksites or laboratory-confirmed influenza in residential institutions occurring in greater than or equal to 50% of the influenza surveillance region(s)

* Confirmation of influenza within the surveillance region at any time within the prior four weeks
† Sub-regions within the province or territory as defined by the provincial/territorial epidemiologist

Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Definitions:

A) ILI in the general population:

Acute onset of respiratory illness with fever and cough and with one or more of the following - sore throat, arthralgia, myalgia, or prostration which could be due to influenza virus. In children under 5, gastrointestinal symptoms may also be present. In patients under 5 or 65 and older, fever may not be prominent.

B) ILI/Influenza outbreaks:

Schools and work sites: greater than 10% absenteeism on any day most likely due to ILI.

Residential institutions: two or more cases of ILI within a seven-day period, including at least one laboratory-confirmed case.

Reporting Schedule for Influenza Activity Reports (Appendix C) for the remaining 2005-2006 Season

Week	From --- To	Submit to MOHLTC by
33 - 34	August 13, 2006 – August 26, 2006	Tuesday August 29, 2006